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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

A textbook of botany.—The second part of GANONG's *Textbook of Botany* has appeared,¹ including a presentation of the plant groups, and also the ecological classification of plants. In the first chapter the phylogenetic connections of the major plant groups are presented; while the subsequent chapters give a general account of the different groups, using selected forms as illustrations. The author is so well known as a teacher that it is hardly necessary to say that the presentation, following the thought he has had in mind, is thoroughly well done.—J. M. C.

Manual of woody plants.—TRELEASE² has published a small pocket manual of the woody plants used for decorative purposes. The intention of the author "is to make it possible for any careful observer to learn the generic and usually the specific name of any hardy tree, shrub, or woody climber that he is likely to find cultivated in the United States." The book contains 782 species in 247 genera. Its keys and descriptions, with the help of the glossary, should enable those untrained in botany to recognize woody plants under cultivation in parks and other ornamental grounds; while its size makes it available as a pocket companion.—J. M. C.

The sweet pea.—The rapid advance in plant pathology is bringing forth popular books on the diseases of special crops for the use of commercial growers. These works in order to meet the demand of the growers must be broader than most Experiment Station publications. The most recent publication of this kind is by TAUBENHAUS,³ whose studies in the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station have given him an especially good preparation for this work. The book gives a review of the history, evolution, and classification of sweet peas; a thorough discussion of cultural methods; and the diseases (including insect pests) and methods for their control. The work is very carefully prepared and well illustrated, and the discussions so clear and concise that the grower will find it very helpful.—MEL. T. COOK.

¹ GANONG, WILLIAM F., *A textbook of botany for colleges. Part II.* 8vo. pp. ix+391-595. *figs.* 275-400. New York: Macmillan. 1917. \$1.00.

² TRELEASE, WILLIAM, *Plant materials of decorative gardening: The woody plants.* 16mo. pp. 204. Urbana: Published by the author. 1917.

³ TAUBENHAUS, J. J., *The culture and diseases of the sweet pea.* New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1917.